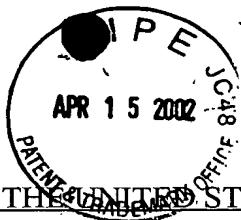


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[Signature]

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Yutaka IKUSHIMA et al

: EXAMINER: OH, Taylor V.

SERIAL NO. : 09/659,821

FILED: SEPTEMBER 11, 2000

: GROUP ART UNIT: 1623

FOR: METHOD OF NOVEL
NONCATALYTIC ORGANIC
SYNTHESIS

AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following amendment and remarks.

✓ // IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 as follows.

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02
A
--1. (Amended) A method of non catalytic organic synthesis in a reaction that proceeds by basic catalysis, which comprises performing said reaction in the absence of catalyst without addition of basic catalyst in supercritical water or subcritical water of at least 350°C, utilizing a supply of OH⁻ from said water as a substitute for said basic catalyst.

2. (Amended) A method of increasing the reaction rate of an organic synthesis reaction that proceeds by basic catalysis, which comprises performing the organic synthesis